

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 24 and 27-37 are presently active in this case, Claim 24 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Claims 1-23, 25, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasui et al. (JP 6-283414). Claims 24, 26, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirae et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0001392) in view of Noh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,938). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the art rejections.

Claims 25, 27, and 28 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The subject matter of Claim 25 has been incorporated into Claim 24, and thus the Applicants submit that Claim 24 is in condition for allowance. Additionally, a new Claim 32 has been added that includes the subject matter of original Claim 24 and original Claim 27. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that new Claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-31 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 24 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 24.

Claims 33-37 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 32 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other

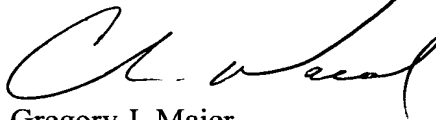
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features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 32.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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